



Norman H. Bangerter

Governor

Suzanne Dandoy, M.D., M.P.H.

Executive Director

Kenneth L. Aikema

Director

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

288 North 1460 West

P.O. Box 16690

Salt Lake City, Utah 84116-0690

(801) 538-6121

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MINERALS PROGRAM  
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APR 06 1990

DIV  
OIL, GAS & MINING

m/053/005

April 5, 1990

Ken A. Kluksdahl  
Tenneco Minerals  
P.O. Box 2650  
955 North 1300 West #4  
St. George, Utah 84770

Re: Solution Breach  
Goldstrike Mine

Dear Mr. Kluksdahl:

We have reviewed your letter dated March 12, 1990 concerning the solution breach that occurred in cell No. 7 on March 9, 1990.

An estimated 300 gallons of cyanide solution apparently flowed through the heap to a solution channel created by the previous breach that occurred on February 21, 1990.

We are concerned because this is the second breach within 17 days. We request that you provide in writing a detailed explanation of the cause of this breach, and the corrective actions which will be implemented to prevent future occurrences.

From your letter, it appears that sodium cyanide solution is applied heavily to the ore on the shoulders of the heap, in order to effectively leach the sloped portions of the heaped ore body. If so, this practice needs to be corrected by using the drip irrigation system at a controlled rate.

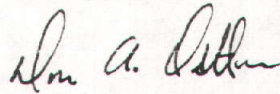
We also recommend that pressure sensing devices be installed on the irrigation system that will turn the pumps off should one of the irrigation pipes burst.



Tenneco Minerals  
April 5, 1990  
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A follow-up written report is also required to be sent as soon as possible after the event to the same three agencies. For more detail on what should be included in the written report as well as other requirements of the "Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act", please contact Neil Taylor at 538-6121.

Sincerely,



Don A. Ostler, P.E., Director  
Bureau of Water Pollution Control

LWS:rvg

cc: Mr. Wayne Thomas, Southwest District Health Department  
Mr. Bill Dawson, Southwest District Health Department  
Mr. Wayne Hedberg, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
U.S. EPA, Region VIII

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